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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Council Offices,
MORETON-IN-MARSH,
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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

Stephen Knight, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(since 1st September 1939 serving in R.A.M.C.)

Deputy acting Medical Officer of Health

J.E.Jameson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.R.C.O.G.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector

J.E.Busfield, Testamur Institution of Municipal and County Engineers; Certificated Sanitary Inspector; Certificated Meats and Foods Inspector; Sanitary Science Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

D.B.Jones, - Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

D.E.Jacob, - Certificated Sanitary Inspector.

S E C T I O N A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,218
Registrar-General's estimate of -	
(a) Resident population - mid 1939	15,100
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates -	15,760
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the Rate Books -	4,915
Rateable Value	£75,965
Sum represented by a penny rate -	£316

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The people in the district are mainly engaged in agriculture, market gardening, fruit growing, and associated occupations.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS:	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Legitimate	245	129	116
Illegitimate	4	4	-
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			16.4

STILL BIRTHS:			
Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...			38.6

DEATHS:	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
	252	130	122
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population			15.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and Still)births
No.29 Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No.30 Other puerperal causes	2	7.7
Total	2	7.7

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	54.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	500

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages)	29
" " MEASLES (all ages)	Nil
" " WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	Nil
" " DIARRHOEA (under 2 years of age)	1

GENERAL COMMENT

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor have there been any specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity requiring comment.

Owing to the war approximately 500 children were received in the area from London, under the Government, and about 440 were still in the area at the end of the year.

At the end of the year approximately 3,000 troops were billeted in this area.

S E C T I O N B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council have arrangements for the examination of sputum, swabs and other pathological material at the Cheltenham General Hospital. As a wartime measure additional laboratory facilities are now available at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases: The ambulance service is provided by the Delancey Isolation Hospital, Cheltenham.

(b) Other cases: The Cheltenham Ambulance Service is under agreement with the Council to serve the whole area. In addition A.R.P. Services maintain five whole-time ambulances and four part-time ambulances in the area. The service is adequate.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The whole area is covered by the District Nursing Associations.

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Stow-on-the-Wold	1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
Blockley	Alternate Wednesdays.
Moreton-in-Marsh	2nd Tuesdays.
Bourton-on-the-Water	2nd and 4th Fridays.
Campden	2nd and 4th Mondays.

5. HOSPITALS.

(a) Voluntary:

Moreton District Hospital (Maternity, Medical and Surgical)
Bourton-on-the-Water Cottage Hospital (Medical and Surgical

(b) Infectious:

The Delancey Isolation Hospital, Cheltenham.

S E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) (a) Particulars of new sources of Public Supply:

The Comprehensive water supply was finally completed in July, giving supplies to Bledington, Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water, Donnington, Condicote, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Campden and Mickleton.

(b) Particulars of extension of existing mains:

Comprehensive supply mains were extended to Longborough.

(c) Measures taken and/or in force for discovery of sources of contamination (including number of samples taken for examination):

Sampling of supplies, both public and private, in all parishes. A total of 86 samples taken during the year.

(d) Number of new connections with public Supply: 405.

(e) Particulars of supply where unsatisfactory in quality or in quantity:

Supplies at Todenham and Evenlode were found to be unsatisfactory in quality.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

(a) Particulars of new schemes completed during year:
Improvements to sewage disposal works at Upper Slaughter and Lower Swell.

(b) New works commenced during the year: Nil.

(c) Particulars of contemplated works: Nil.

(d) Particulars of parishes where there is a need of

(1) Sewerage system - Pollution of ditches occurs at Mickleton, Willersey and Bourton-on-the-Hill.
(2) Improvements in existing sewerage - Lower Swell.
(3) Improvements in sewage disposal - Nil.

(3) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area:

The system of emptying cesspools at Bledington was continued with success.

(4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed - 12
(b) Number of replacements of earth closets etc. by W.Cs. - 60

(5) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All parishes in the district are covered by the system of refuse collection and disposal. No changes were made in the collection during the year and the salvage of refuse in disposal came under consideration at the end of the year.

Cleansing of cesspools at Bledington was undertaken and in the last few weeks of the year, the refuse removal and emptying of latrine buckets for about 3,000 troops throughout the district was undertaken.

Disposal of the latter was made into the Council's sewers to avoid digging on land.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTION.

(a) Inspections made		4352
(b) Nuisances discovered or reported		
	TOTAL	261
" " "	"Swine only	4
(c) Complaints received		385
(d) Informal or preliminary notices sent		261
(e) Statutory Notices sent ...		5
(f) Nuisances abated		143
(g) Summonses issued		Nil
(h) Convictions obtained		Nil

(7) PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROL.

(a) Shops and Offices.

Number inspected ...	30
Number of inspections made	37

Particulars of action taken during the year:

(1) Under Shop Acts 1934 ... No action taken.

(2) Under Public Health Act 1936 " " "

(b) Factories with Power.

Number inspected ...	23
Number of inspections made	34

(c) Factories without Power.

Number inspected ...	21
Number of inspections made	29

(d) Bakehouses.

Number inspected ...	15
Number of inspections made	18

(e) Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades in the district.

(f) Outworkers Residences.

Number inspected ...	16
Number of inspections ...	16

All outworkers residences are used for the manufacture of gloves and conditions were found to be quite satisfactory.

(g) Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number inspected ...	56
Number of inspections ...	81

Action taken:

Byelaws for tents, vans and sheds, and fruit pickers lodgings were put into operation. Conditions generally showed improvement during the pea and fruit picking seasons.

(h) Canal Boats.

Nil.

(I) Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number inspected ...	143
Number of inspections made	186

Action taken:
Improvements to many cowsheds and dairies were effected during the year.

Number of samples of milk taken 49

Where found to be unsatisfactory advice was given to the producers concerned.

(j) Milk Shops - Nil.

(8) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

No complaints and no action necessary.

(9) BUG ERADICATION.

	Council Houses.	Other Houses.
(a) Number of houses found to be infested	Nil	1.
(b) Number of houses disinfested	Nil	1.

(c) Methods employed for freeing infested houses:
Blowlamps round walls and floors, destruction of bedding etc. where necessary.

(d) All houses subject to clearance or demolition orders are inspected but no instances of infestation have been found.

(10) SCHOOLS.

Piped water supplies from the comprehensive system have been provided to schools at Bledington, Longborough and Condicote.

(11) CAMPING SITES.

(1) Number of sites used for camping purposes during the year	8
(2) Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of Public Health Act 1936	1
(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season	50

(4) Remarks: Most Camping sites are used for very short periods, insufficient for registration. One permanent site was discontinued during the year and one new one was established.

(12) SWIMMING POOLS AND NATIONAL FACILITIES FOR SWIMMING.

(a) Particulars of any swimming baths or pools open to the public and action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water:

(1) Publicly owned - Nil.
(2) Privately owned - one at Broad Campden.

A sample taken from this pool was found to be satisfactory.

(b) Particulars of any natural facilities for swimming in lakes, rivers, etc. in the area and the condition of the water for bathing:

The River Windrush is used at a point below Bourton-on-the-Water, the water being quite suitable for this purpose.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(a) 1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 1061

2. Number of inspections made for this purpose .. 1479

(b) 1. Number of houses included under above which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1937 216

2. Number of inspections made for this purpose . 458

(c) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 37

(d) Number of houses exclusive of those referred to under (c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 254

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 198

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 2

2. Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Housing Act 1936:
(Part II Repairs, Demolition, Closure.)

1. Repairs (9,10 and 16)

(a) Number of houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 3

(b) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:

By owners ... ... Nil
By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

2. Demolition (sections 11 and 13)

(a) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders made 1

(b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 54

3. Closure of portions of buildings (Section 12)

(a) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders made 1

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

Part III - (Clearance, Re-development and Improvement Areas).

1. Clearance Area declarations made by Council 28
2. Clearance Orders submitted and awaiting confirmation by Minister ... ... Nil
3. Clearance Orders submitted and rejected by Minister 1
4. Clearance Orders submitted and confirmed by Minister 27
5. Re-development Area Declarations made by Council ... ... Nil
6. Re-development Plans submitted and awaiting confirmation by Minister ... Nil
7. Re-development Plans submitted and rejected by Minister ... ... Nil
8. Re-development Plans submitted and confirmed by Minister ... ... Nil
9. Improvement Area Declarations made by Council Nil

Part IV - (Overcrowding).

1. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 20

(b) Number of families dwelling therein 20

(c) Number of persons living therein 176

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

3. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 8

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases 36

4. Number and particulars of any cases in which houses have again become overcrowded after steps had been taken for abatement:

During the year 27 inspections were made with regard to the above and alleged new cases of overcrowding.

4. Particulars relating specially to agricultural population. Action under Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of houses provided for members of agricultural population to relieve overcrowding, and subject to Ministry and County Council Grants under Sections 108 and 115 (3) ...	Nil
(2) Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population, exclusive of those for the relief of overcrowding, and subject to grant from the County Council under Section 115 (2)	4

5. All new houses.

(1) Total number of new houses erected during the year	204
(2) New houses erected during the year with State assistance under Housing Acts	
(a) By Local Authority	79
(b) By other bodies or persons ...	Nil
(3) New houses erected during the year without subsidy	
(a) Council	40
(b) Others	85
(4) New houses - during the year proposed to be erected under Housing Acts but not yet built	120 approx.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Dairies, Cow Sheds, Milk shops.

Number inspected ... 143.
Number of inspections 186.

Improvements to many cowsheds and dairies were effected during the year. 49 samples of milk were taken and where these were found to be unsatisfactory, advice was given to the producers concerned.

(b) Meat and other foods.

There are 23 slaughter houses in the area. The Chief Sanitary Inspector and his assistants make regular inspections and in spite of the size of the area, a very large proportion of the meat is inspected whilst slaughtering is proceeding. Inspections are also made in addition to inspections during regular hours of slaughter.

The class of meat slaughtered in the district is good, the amount of unsound and diseased meat being small.

(c) Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

There are 59 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

Legal proceedings were taken in one instance for an offence under Section 1 of the Act, and a conviction obtained.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	441	74	1957	515
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	-	8	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	.907	-	.5	.58
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	5	-	-	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.13	-	-	1.94

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria has been in operation for four years. During the year under review 200 children were treated and of these about 25% were children of pre-school age. The material supplied by the Council is alum precipitated toxoid. It is recommended to the usual family doctor who carries out the treatment by arrangement with the Council that this material be given in two doses. Since the scheme has been in operation 935 children have been immunised.

Scarlet Fever.

Forty seven cases were notified as compared with fifteen the previous year. The cases were mostly of a mild type, except in one family of three children where a more severe type resulted in the death of a girl aged five years.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Three cases, including one non-civilian, were notified. No death was recorded.

Diphtheria.

Fifteen cases of diphtheria were notified. No death from this disease was recorded.

Enteric Fever.

An isolated case of paratyphoid B was notified. Treated in hospital, this child recovered.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil		
Scarlet Fever	47	39	1
Diphtheria	15	12	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	1	1	
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	
Poliomyelitis	1		1
Other diseases generally notifiable:			
Pneumonia	13		
Erysipelas	8		
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	3	3	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1		
Measles	3		
Whooping cough	1		

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				1				
5		1	2	1				
15						1		
25	1				1	3		
35		1				1		
45	1	1				1		
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals	2	3	2	2	1	6	Nil	Nil